



TITLE:

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CITATION:

Kojima, Sadayoshi. FINITENESS OF SYMMETRIES ON 3-MANIFOLDS. 数理解析研究所講究録 1983, 487: 79-81

ISSUE DATE:

1983-05

URL:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2433/103480>

RIGHT:

FINITENESS OF SYMMETRIES ON 3-MANIFOLDS

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This is a summary of my talk on finiteness of symmetries on 3-manifolds at Research Institute for Mathematical Science.

A symmetry of a manifold M is a periodic diffeomorphism with non-empty fixed point set. It then determines a cyclic group action on M and hence a cyclic subgroup of $\text{Diff } M$. We shall identify two symmetries if they induce conjugate subgroups in $\text{Diff } M$. My exclusive concern is finiteness properties of isometric symmetries on a geometric manifold. However this object is not restrictive for the general study of symmetries in the light of recent Thurston's theorem [3].

One of the finiteness properties we can conclude from my study and Thurston's theorem is

Theorem A. Let M be a closed orientable prime 3-manifold. Then there are only finitely many conjugacy classes of cyclic subgroups of given order in $\text{Diff } M$ generated by an orientation preserving symmetry.

This means that M admits only finitely many symmetries of given order. Theorem A almost answers Problem 3.39 (A) in [1] posed by Tollefson. This can be generalized for compact non-prime manifolds without $S^1 \times S^2$ summands. As a corollary to the generalization, we can negatively answer Problem 3.41 in [1] posed

by Montesinos.

Corollary B. No closed 3-manifold admits an infinite number of nonequivariant involutions with S^3 as the orbit space.

The other finiteness property we conclude concerns with the possible periods of symmetries on a given manifold. On non-spherical surfaces, it is known to be bounded. We got the analogous result for 3-manifolds. That is

Theorem C. Let M be a closed orientable irreducible non-spherical 3-manifold. Then the order of cyclic subgroups of $\text{Diff } M$ generated by an orientation preserving symmetry is bounded.

This also almost answers Problem 3.39 (C) in [1] posed by Thurston. There is a similar generalization of the theorem for non-irreducible manifolds.

These theorems are still valid for compact manifolds with toral boundary with slight change. This generalizations are useful for the study of symmetries of links. A symmetry of a link is by definition a symmetry of the link exterior which extends a symmetry of S^3 . A link is said to have period n if it admits a symmetry of order n . Two symmetries are identified if they are conjugate by a diffeomorphism of S^3 leaving the link invariant. Though the equivalence turns out fine, the boundedness theorem of the possible periods of symmetries still does work, and we get a corollary which

answers a question posed by Sakuma in [4].

Corollary D. Any non-trivial link has only finitely many periods.

The complete proof of these theorems (except Thurston's theorem as usual!) is available as a preprint form [2].

References

- [1] Kirby, R.: Problems in low-dimensional manifold theory, Proc. Symp. Pure Math. vol 32 (1978), 273 - 312.
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- [3] Thurston, W.: Three manifolds with symmetries, preliminary report (1982).
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